



26th May 2020

MA Circular 02/2020

To: Project Leaders of projects funded and implemented in the 2007-2013 Programming Period
Line Ministries

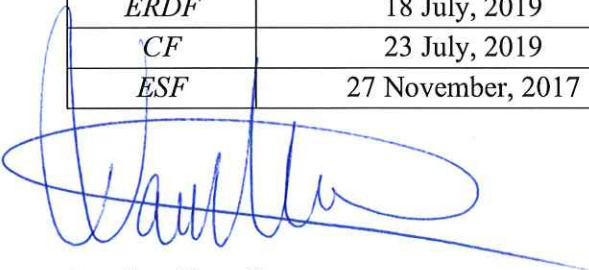
RE: Applicable Retention Period for Projects funded through the Programming Period 2007-2013 under Operational Programme I - Investing in Competitiveness for a Better Quality of Life- ERDF and CF, and Operational Programme II - Empowering people for more jobs and a better quality of life - European Social Fund

Reference is being made to the Grant Agreements signed with respect to the projects implemented during the 2007-2013 Programming Period, with particular reference to the clause dealing with the obligation to retain supporting documents, and to Section 12 of the Manual of Procedures 2007-2013 for Project Implementation¹.

By means of this Circular, the Managing Authority (MA) would like to inform you that it has been formally notified by the European Commission of the official closure date of the Operational Programmes, in caption. Such date determines the start date of the three-year period (i.e. the retention period) referred to in Article 90(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006².

Within this context, Beneficiaries are being hereby reminded and advised of their obligation to retain, for the availability of the Commission and the Court of Auditors, **all the supporting documents regarding the expenditure and the implementation of projects funded under ERDF, CF and ESF** for a period of three years, which period will elapse as outlined below:

Fund	Formal closure of the Operational Programme ³	Elapse of Retention Period
ERDF	18 July, 2019	18 July, 2022
CF	23 July, 2019	23 July, 2022
ESF	27 November, 2017	27 November, 2020



Jonathan Vassallo,
Head - Managing Authority

¹ [https://eufunds.gov.mt/en/Operational%20Programmes/Useful%20Links%20and%20Downloads/Pages/-Manual-of-Procedures-2007-2013-\(I\)-for-Project-Implementation-V5.aspx](https://eufunds.gov.mt/en/Operational%20Programmes/Useful%20Links%20and%20Downloads/Pages/-Manual-of-Procedures-2007-2013-(I)-for-Project-Implementation-V5.aspx)

² Without prejudice to the rules governing State aid under Article 87 of the Treaty

³ Date from which the three year retention period starts to apply and be counted